

## TONA DUNLAP MAKING DETERMINED FIGHT TO FREE HERSELF FROM CHARGE OF MURDER.

Relatives Will Spend Every Cent They Have and the Gray-Haired Mother Will Sell Her Home to Prevent Her Daughter From Going to the Gallows—Immense Throng Crowd the Courtroom Daily at Alameda, Ill., to Listen to the Evidence by Which the State Is Attempting to Prove the Fair Defendant Poisoned Her Friend, Alice Dool.

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FROM A DISTANCE

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Italy to Distraction.

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—Here is a tale of love and death, which Guy de Maupassant would have rubbed their hands in, as he is setting an opera-house and a cathedral.

The principals are Tina de Spada, Countess, opera singer, princess of Carmine Silva, Queen of Roumania, and Michael Belavain, student, reclusive, brother of Bishop Tikhon, head of the Orthodox Greek Church in all North America.

One morning she went away. Then his heart broke, and he died. He was somewhat of a recluse, but he had a friend, a student, a picture of Tina de Spada, then singing at the Tivoli, Bellevue went to the opera.

From that night her tones were ever in his heart. Her face and figure walked with him. Attached with him, knelt with him in prayer. He believed the singer, she became more than a friend, and a god.

"She is my goddess," he said, and he worshipped her as such from a distance. He went to the theater whenever she sang. He sent her flowers and gifts.

He would not meet her. His friend offered to arrange a meeting. There was nothing to hinder.

"No, no," he said, "I must look down on her because I speak nothing but Russian. That would end my worship of her. She is my goddess now. I must not break the chain."

SENT HOME FOR SONGS.

He sent to Russia and secured love songs and operas for an evening's entertainment. He sent to her on one occasion after he had heard that the theatrical engagement of his idol was about to come to a close.

"You are my goddess. No one can love you as I do. I hear you are going away, and if I can only get a meeting with you, I will take from you, it will give me courage in my grief. Life here without you is impossible. I cannot resist after you are gone."

Up to this time Tina de Spada had made no acknowledgment of his gifts, and he had been advised by some one to send him a little token—a note and her picture. She said that love between them was impossible. She was going to her home in Italy to keep with her father, a man of letters, and to be happy with him.

Tuesday his friend saw him, flying alone the street.

"Where are you going that you hurry so?"

"Ah, she crosses on the 2 o'clock boat," and he was away to catch a glimpse of her; to note the passing of an angel; to watch the materialization of a dream.

"She is going away to-morrow," he said. That night he was stricken. He took his bed. Doctor Vacki was called. He said the trouble was nervous prostration.

At 11 o'clock Tina de Spada left for the Overland Limited on her way to Milan.

At 11 o'clock Michael Belavain lay in bed in room with a picture of Tina de Spada in his hand.

SAT ON ALLEGED BURGLAR.

Father Held Intrauder While the

Daughter Chattered With Him.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 12.—Miss May Redmond related in Police Court how she entertained a burglar with small talk while her father sat upon him and her sister waited for the policeman. Miss Redmond is the daughter of James A. F. Redmond, and, with her father, attended the theater. Upon their return they found a strange man in the kitchen. Miss May's story is as follows:

The burglar man seemed really unhappy with papa sitting on him, so I went out and chatted with him. But really, I was a little bit scared. I asked him why he had come into the house, and he snarped out that it wasn't any of my business. I couldn't use the word he did—business. Then I asked papa to let him up, and he seemed to be the window.

He told me he got what he wanted, and he said that wasn't any of my—business either. Just then the policeman came and him away.

The prisoner, Ed Cushing, says he isn't a burglar. He said he was going to spend the night with an uncle on lower street, got the wrong house and crawled through the window by mistake. The judge brushed aside his explanation and bound him over.



MISS ANTOINETTE DUNLAP. Now in the Mercer County Jail under indictment on charge of murder of Miss Alice Dool.

Alameda, Ill., Dec. 12.—Alice Dool and Tona Dunlap had been friends since early childhood. Alice Dool is dead and her one-time friend and schoolmate is behind prison bars, accused of one of the most mysterious and malicious murders ever committed in this State.

Each day now she faces Judge and jury, and three of the best lawyers in Western Illinois are fighting hard for her life.

On the evening of August 7 Alice Dool died in a terrible agony from strychnine poison.

The State is attempting to prove that Alice Dool died from strychnine poison, caused by eating chocolate creams given her by Tona Dunlap.

The case is full of mystery and with each new feature seems to be the more complicated. If Alice Dool died of strychnine poison, how did the strychnine get in the candy? How did Tona Dunlap get the same death that met her friend, if the candy was poisoned, for she ate freely out of the same box? These are questions which are engaging the best legal talent of the State.

It is claimed that Alice Dool had had a disappointing love affair. It is possible that she could have wished to take her own life. At one time she was engaged to a man by the name of Owens. It was a genuine love affair, and she became addicted to drink and the engagement was broken.

If Tona Dunlap is guilty of this charge, she is a monster. It is a monster who enters in? Was it jealousy that prompted her to commit this awful deed? If so, who is to blame in the case? Is it possible to suppose that the accused would murder her best friend for the sake of a paltry sum of money? Both sides are asking the questions on the issue of every one.

About 5:30 o'clock B. F. Felix, proprietor of the store, returned from supper. He found Miss Dunlap sitting in a chair. She said she was waiting for her father. He immediately went into a convulsion. He called Doctor M. G. Reynolds. Convulsions after convulsions followed. No relief came. He died at about 10 o'clock.

During the early part of her suffering between convulsions in response to the doctor's questions as to what was the matter, Alice Dool said:

"The candy which Tina gave me was so bitter I put part of it out. It is near the machine counter."

It was afterwards found near that place. In a dying statement Alice Dool said: "I wonder why Tina did this? Or, why did Tina give me this?"

With these words Alice Dool passed away and a few days the general opinion was that Alice Dool had died, the unfortunate victim of a terrible accident.

The coroner's inquest on the next day developed a variety of death by strychnine poison, with no other explanation of the death.

The return of the State's Attorney, W. J. Graham from the West brought about a change in the jury. The jury was directed to find Tona Dunlap guilty of murder.

Neighbors remembered traveling circumstances which, in the light of the developments after the girl's death, seemed significant. Still the jury persisted in finding the death of Alice Dool a murder.

"My attorney has asked me to say nothing," said Alice Dool's mother, Mrs. Mary Dunlap, mother of Tona Dunlap, a woman through whose spectacles a pair of kindly blue eyes.

The other is Mrs. Mary Dunlap, mother of Tona Dunlap, a woman through whose spectacles a pair of kindly blue eyes.

Both women sit in rocking chairs, Mrs. Dool by the side of her husband and Mrs. Dunlap by the side of her daughter, and their chairs are ever rocking. Miss Dunlap sits on the other side of her sister, and it is rarely that the defendant's hands are not in the grasp of the hands of her mother and sister.

At no time since the evidence began has the courtroom been large enough to hold the State to weave a web of circumstantial evidence around Tona Dunlap. After testing the death of her daughter, Mrs. Dool related the circumstances attending a visit made by Mrs. Dunlap and Tona to the residence, five days after Alice Dool's death.

Mrs. Dunlap said to Mrs. Dool: "You don't know Alice's death, do you, Mrs. Dool?"

She replied: "That's a pretty hard question for me to answer. Mrs. Dunlap, I said it was almost impossible for one to believe that any one would be wicked enough to poison a friend, and that I didn't know how Alice could have got so much poison and eat it."

Then Tona asked if she had heard the rumor that she wanted Alice's place in the heart of her father. She said she had another position.

Mrs. Dool told the story of her daughter's engagement to Frank Owens, which was broken a year ago.

An admission considered highly significant for the defense was made by Mrs. Dool when she admitted that her daughter had corresponded with Owens during the past year without her knowledge. Mrs. Dool said she had discovered two letters from her daughter's death which had been written by Owens. The defense will demand the admission of these letters in the case.

Mrs. Dool testified that when she returned to her store for supper she found Miss Dool sitting in a chair near the rear door. She said she saw a man who she said she knew, and she said she saw a man who she said she knew.

"I caught her by the wrist and held her until the convulsion was over when I asked her what was the matter. She said she was waiting for her father. She said she was waiting for her father."

A hard fight was made by the defense against the admission of these letters. One day was occupied in hearing the evidence on this part of the case in the absence of the jury, and another day was taken up by the arguments of the lawyers, before Judge Ramsey decided in favor of the State.

The testimony of Mr. Felix, Margaret Reynolds, and Doctor Reynolds, who were called by the State, was heard and the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

ONLY A PAIR OF GIRLS.

Tona Dunlap is a strange girl. Although she is a girl of only 19 years of age, she is so utterly indifferent as a criminal spectator her more recent conduct shows that she is a girl of a different type.

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One week has been consumed in getting a jury. The greatest difficulty was experienced from the start, a week ago last Monday, in finding veniremen who had not discussed the case with their friends, or who had not formed fixed opinions concerning the guilt or innocence of Tona Dunlap.

Before the twelfth jury had been secured 20 veniremen had been examined. Then began the actual trial with the hearing of evidence.

Two white-haired and feeble women became central figures of the trial from the beginning, dividing public interest with the fair defendant. One is Mrs. J. C. Dool, mother of the dead girl, a little, motherly woman, through whose spectacles a pair of kindly blue eyes.

The other is Mrs. Mary Dunlap, mother of Tona Dunlap, a woman through whose spectacles a pair of kindly blue eyes.

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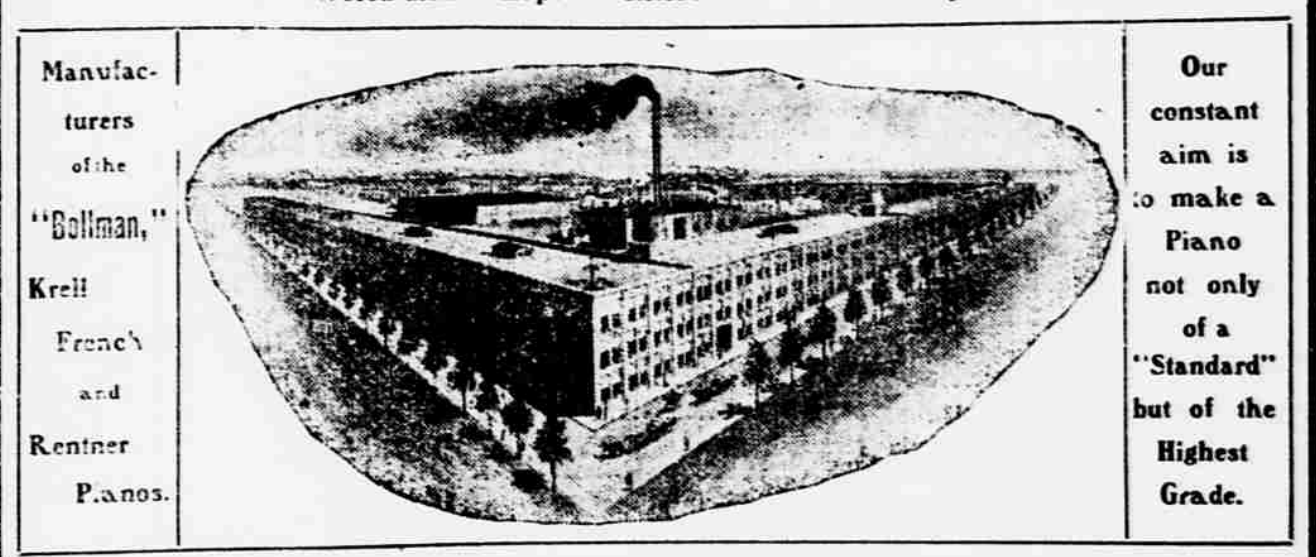
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One of the two witnesses to testify Friday was Frank Minor, the grocer, who sold Miss Dunlap candy on August 7. He swore that all of the chocolate creams were in perfect condition.

Expert testimony entered into the case today. Doctor J. Allen Patton, professor

of chemistry in Rush Medical College of Chicago, sitting on the stand for the State. He testified to making a chemical analysis of the pieces of candy, and the contents of the dead girl's stomach. In both of these analyses Doctor Patton said he found strychnine.

The trial promises to continue until after Christmas, more than sixty witnesses will have testified for the State before the defense can begin, and the defense will have as many witnesses on its side. Of these Miss Dunlap will be the chief.

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